



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 19, 2002

Contact: Mikel Haas
(619) 767-2605

COUNTY OFFERS \$40-VALUE SPAY OR NEUTER COUPONS ***County Animal Control and 9 Cities Seek to Reduce Number of Unwanted Pets***

Pet owners residing in cities and communities served by the County Department of Animal Control are eligible to receive a \$40 coupon to cover or defray the cost of spaying or neutering their pets, Mikel Haas, the department's director, announced today.

The program is funded through the County and the nine cities, including the City of San Diego, that contract with the County for animal control and sheltering services.

"If the \$40 will help out just one person who knows the importance of having their pet 'fixed' but thought they couldn't afford it -- or even an owner who is well-intentioned but has been procrastinating -- then the program will be a success," said Haas, adding that a record 2,500 pets were spayed or neutered under the coupon program last year. "Nothing has a more positive effect on our community's ability to deal with pet overpopulation than spaying or neutering of our pets. Nothing."

The coupons, which are accepted by veterinarians throughout the County, are available to residents of the unincorporated areas of the County and the cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Poway, San Diego, San Marcos, Santee and Solana Beach.

To obtain one or more of these coupons, pet owners in the City of San Diego should visit one of the city's 15 Community Service Centers. For the nearest location, call 619-236-5555.

Coupons are also available from the participating cities, or at any of the three County Animal Shelters, located in Mission Valley, Bonita or Carlsbad.

Eligible residents may also contact Pet Assistance, 619-544-1222, or the Spay-Neuter Action Project (SNAP) at 619-525-3047.

###